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The Historical Truth of the
KIMBERLIN CEMETERY
OF ANTHONIES MILL, MISSOURI

BY

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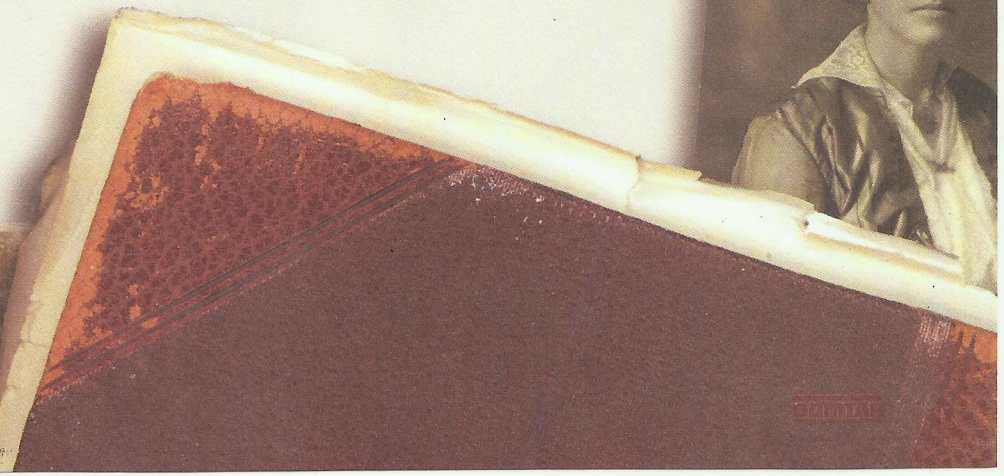
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The author has presented a compelling argument concerning the misnaming of one of Washington County, Missouri's historical landmarks.

Armed with historical facts and documentation, Mr. Pratt suggests changing the name of Anthonies Mill Cemetery back to its historical origin...The Kimberlin Cemetery.

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BY *Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 2011*

TROUBLING CONTROVERSY

As I continue my research into family histories as I have done over the last 38 years, I become more and more annoyed by certain injustices that seem to have taken place.

One of these injustices is the naming of Antonies Mill Cemetery by state and local officials who haven't a clue as to the real and correct origins of the cemetery.

I shall present the evidence to the reader and let you draw your own conclusions.

KIMBERLIN(G) CEMETERY

Kimberlin(g) Cemetery aka Antonies Mill, is located off of Highway N North of where Summer's store then Kimberlin's Store was located in Section 19, Township 39 North, Range 1 West in the Johnson Township, Washington County, Missouri.
Latitude: 38.09171, Longitude: -91.08597

When Rhinehart "Rinard" E. & Frances Jane (**PETERS**) Kimberlin(g) came to Washington County, Missouri in 1827, they first settled in the Meramec Township, Washington County area by the 1830 census.

Rinard bought property in the Richwoods Township, Washington County by the 1840 census. On the 21st of September 1840, his brother-in-law; John & Mary (**HULSEY**) Peters sold him 40 acres in what is now called the Hamilton Hollow area of Johnson Township.

Hamilton Hollow is another example of an injustice concerning the naming of the area. Originally it was named after Abraham Absalom Blanton and renamed Hamilton after the Hamilton Iron Works purchased some property, which originally belonged to the Blanton family.

KIMBERLIN CEMETERY HISTORY

On the 6th of February 1854, Firmin Rene & Cynthia Ann (**McILVAINE**) Desloge based out of Potosi, sold 105 acres to Rinard and family in the Northwest corner of Section 19, Township 39 North, Range 1 west for \$300.

How long Rinard and family had lived in the area before purchasing the property is unknown. After establishing residence in that area, Rinard donated the property for a cemetery named in his honor as the Kimberlin Burying Ground or Cemetery.

The very first known recorded person with a headstone to have been buried in the Kimberlin Cemetery was Josephine Kimberlin born October 1753 and died October 1841 aged 88 years and 2 days. I have yet to learn who she was, but she was buried 15 years before Jonas Anthony bought the gristmill.

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THE GRISTMILL CHANGES HANDS

Long before Jonas Anthony bought the grist and sawmill from John Harrison in 1856, Kimberlin Cemetery had been established on land donated by Rinard Kimberlin in the furthestmost part of his legal property.

Rinard owned 105 acres, which the cemetery is located on, and he established a community burial location for hundreds of his family and friends.

How or why they changed the name of the cemetery from Kimberlin Cemetery to Anthonies Mill, (which they spelled Anthony wrong), is unknown...unless to appeal to Jonas Anthony's vanity.

To change the name of the cemetery from Kimberlin to Anthonies Mill is unconscionable especially when all the facts are known.

Most of the death certificates recorded by the State of Missouri after 1910 of the people, who died in the area, are listed on the death certificate as being buried in the Kimberlin Cemetery...not Anthonies Mill Cemetery.

In fact, I cannot recall seeing any death certificates that name the burial place as Anthonies Mill Cemetery!!

To add insult to injury, the **first and only Anthony** to be buried in the Kimberlin Cemetery was John Rush Anthony born the 2nd of September 1864 and died the **25th of August 1895!**

I surmise, they probably changed the name sometime after Rinard's death and/or in the mid 1900's. This coincides with the Anthonies Mills lake project however, prior to that time period, it was and always was known as the Kimberlin Cemetery.

QUESTIONABLE SOURCE

"History of Forest Hill and Vicinity" by John Steele McCormick © 1970 pages 139-140,

ANTHONIES MILL

This settlement was named for Jonas M. Anthony, born in North Carolina in 1800, died at his home in what was then Harrison's Mill, and is buried in the Harrison Cemetery. He married, May 2, 1831, Nancy Twitty, daughter of John and Mary Twitty. The ceremony was performed by B. Hill, justice of the peace of that area.

The Twitty family had come from Davidson County, Tennessee in 1819 to Franklin Co., Mo., but had early removed to the Harrison settlement.

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One of their daughters, Ellen, married Batteal Harrison. (see p.) John Twitty's name appears among the original landholders on the 1829 list made when the county was organized.

His major holding was the eastern half of S. W. quarter of Section 14, Township 39; Range 2, but he owned much in the Hinch area and more in Washington County.

In 1856 Jonas M. Anthony bought out the grist and saw mill from John Harrison who had constructed them. He continued in the milling business until his death. He held slaves and sent them to various nearby farmers to buy grain. One old slave, "Uncle Sol" remained loyal to the family after the war and lived with the Stephen D. Anthony family until his death.

Jonas and Nancy (Twitty) Anthony had ten children, all of whom married into families of western Washington County. His son, John M. Anthony was sheriff of Washington County. John's son, J. Rush Anthony, purchased the old C.E. Summers' store.

Stephen D. Anthony, the eighth child was born in 1848. He took over the management of the mills and, in 1880, greatly enlarged the grist mill and bought new machinery. At this time he discarded the historic burhs. "Hard money" was scarce so Mr. Anthony took out a portion of the meal from each grind as atoll from each customer. His new mill could run about 25 barrels a day. He became independently rich as increased population caused his business to flourish and the land values to rise.

When the post office was re-established in the early '70's, Stephen D. Anthony was named postmaster and the name was changed to Anthonies Mill-this is the original spelling. The original Harrison Mills Post Office was established June 26, 1832 and was the oldest in northern Crawford County.

Benjamin Harrison was first postmaster; John W. Harman was the second (1851); Andrew Harrison was the postmaster in 1856. The original post office was on the old Anthony farm (now owned by Henry Merkel) close to the M. L. Record home. Shortly after it was moved to the Summers' store site (later Kimberlin's store). The office was discontinued in 1953.

Due to its intermediate position between Potosi and northern Crawford County's settlements, Anthonies Mill was a village of relative importance. Until the coming of the railroad all mail came by horse back from Potosi via Anthonies Mill. The first frame house in the settlement was built by B. T. Pinson. The blacksmith shop was built in 1878. The most romantic event in the village was the David Greenlee-Martha Moutry elopement.

Here the Methodists built one of their first churches in this county in 1863 under the guidance of Rev. Valentine Carter who was its first pastor. The Baptists built their church in 1870. Rev. S.B. Grant was the first pastor. In addition to the churches, there was, during the seventies, an established doctor (Dr. A. H. Converse), a druggist, a shoemaker (T. J. Russell), the blacksmith shop (usually run by some of the Harmans), a good store and the mills.

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Besides the Harrisons, Summers, Anthonys and various Harman families, the Kimberlin family has always been associated with this area.

There were at least two and possibly three founding families of which the best known is the Rhinard and Frances Kimberlin family who came from Virginia in 1827 and settled in Washington County (according to Stevens history.) They settled at Anthonies Mill about 1845. They were parents of four sons and four daughters all of whom married into local families. Unfortunately, family data was not made available.

They were: Joseph, Jacob, Michael, Henry, Mary, Nancy, Catherine and Vermetta. Vermetta, in 1853 married Ruben Harman. Curiously, she used the name Henrietta, when she married Ruben. The marriage is recorded at Potosi and the dates correspond to Vermetta's. The family often spelled the name Kimberling. Ben Kimberling in 1825 in St. Louis, made the first entry for land in Township 40; Range 1 West of Washington County.

FALLACIES AND FALSEHOODS

Much of what was written above fails to take in the land contribution for the Kimberlin Cemetery by Rinard Kimberling and the Kimberlins as **THE** major contributor to the Kimberlin Cemetery.

Also, not much credit is given to the Harrison family who brought the hand-hewn gristmill stones from the east to establish the Harrison Mill and used the stones for the mill at the now named Anthonies Mill.

After selling the Mill to Jonas Anthony, John Harrison and family moved to Oregon.

Jonas Anthony as a local businessman is credited with the settlement but even Mr. McCormick's article declares that John Harrison had actually settled and established a mill at the location long before Jonas Anthony moved into the area.

So, to keep the record straight, I have given credit where credit is due and the settlement was originally named Harrison's Mill and the cemetery was Kimberlin Cemetery and it is an injustice to give the Anthony family the name of the cemetery where only one Anthony is buried.

Even Jonas Anthony is buried in the Harrison Cemetery. But, hundreds of Kimberlin and related families are buried in the Kimberlin Cemetery.

Rinard Kimberlin a wealthy, long established resident of Washington County is the originator and benefactor of the Kimberlin Cemetery.

Jonas Anthony's contribution was that he was a latecomer and bought an established business and under the guise of vanity renamed the area after himself.

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The local inhabitants not knowing the true history of the cemetery renamed the cemetery after him and even named it wrong by spelling it Anthonies Mill.

I am sure, one-day maybe this injustice will be corrected and my 3rd Great Grandfather; Rinard Kimberlin will receive proper credit for his contribution to the local community and the cemetery will be changed back to the Kimberlin Cemetery.

If not, then I know the truth and now you know the truth.

Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

2 October 2011